REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	20 September 1999
Name of applicant/court:	Secretary for Internal Affairs
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	Irene91.jpg
Other Known Titles:	Not Stated
Director:	Not Applicable
Producer:	Not Applicable
Publisher:	Not Applicable
Author:	Not Applicable
Format:	Computer Printout
Country of Origin:	Not Stated
Language:	English

Components of film originally examined: Not Applicable.

Feature:	Running time:
Trailers:	Running time:
	Total Running time:

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Unrestricted: Parental guidance recommended for younger viewers.

Display Conditions:

Not Applicable.

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: Not Applicable.

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The computer printout entitled *Irene91.jpg* is classified as:
Unrestricted: Parental guidance recommended for younger viewers.

The computer printout is a black and white hard copy of the JPEG computer image file of the same name. The printout mainly consists of a large photograph accompanied by a caption in English. The photograph depicts a dead elderly woman's head and shoulders. The main focus is on her face; her mouth is wide open and her eyes are closed. The background environment indicates that she is photographed in a mortuary or examination room. The caption describes that the woman's body is well preserved due to climatic conditions, and that her preservation enabled the cause of death to be determined as natural.

The unrestricted classification is because of the low impact and clinical manner in which the publication presents a dead person in an early state of decay. The "horror" element of depicting the dead woman's face is minimised by this manner of presentation. The publication is considered to degrade and dehumanise the dead woman to a limited extent by presenting her as a curiosity for computer users with a non-professional interest in dead bodies. The printout is reproduced from the computer image file. Access to this material will mainly be limited to adults and teenagers with the requisite computer skills and equipment, however older children may also possess these skills and access.

While the subject matter and its manner of presentation may be considered distasteful and perhaps offensive to some viewers, the overall injurious impact of the publication is considered to be low. However, some younger children may find the image distressing without the context of the caption and parental guidance is therefore recommended. The freedom of expression contained in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 is not limited by this classification, therefore no further consideration need be given.

OFLC Ref: 9900271